Direct train between Howrah and Varanasi

514. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal have written to the Central Government for a direct train service between Howrah and Varanasi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of 17 pairs of trains available between Howrah and Varanasi/Mughalsarai, the proposal has not been found feasible.

Railway Coach Building factory in North Bengal

515. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Coach Building factory is proposed to be set up in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The indigenous coach building capacity in the country at present is 1553 coaches. It is proposed to increase the capacity at Integral Coach Factory Madras from 900 coaches in 1987-88 to 1000 in 1988-89 onwards. Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala has an ultimate capacity of 1000 coaches. With these capacities available and planned, no further increase in coach building capacity is contemplated.

Discontinuance of Indira Vikas Patra

516. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the collection of amount through Indira Gandhi Patra has been discontinued;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the amount collected uptil now through Indira Vikas Patra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. The collection of amount through Indira Vikas Patras has not been discontinued.

(b) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As per the information available so far, the amount collected through the sale of Indira Vikas Patra upto 31-3-1987 is Rs. 828,81,42 (in thousands).

Cranes for Kandla Port Trust

517. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kandla Port Trust has not yet received the delivery of cranes for which orders were placed with M/s. WMI Cranes Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date of placing orders with delivery date stipulated in the contract;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company had delayed the delivery to other port trust authorities; and